

Westminster At Worship

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020

10:30 a.m.



GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

†CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Isaiah 40)

Leader: Listen! The voice of God calls out across the ages.

**People: We hear and respond. We rise up to worship
God from the valleys, the mountains, and the
plains.**

Leader: Like a shepherd God leads us and tenderly
gathers us together.

**People: Comfort, comfort O my people, says our God of
love.**

Leader: The grass withers and the flower fades;

People: But the word of our God will stand forever!

Leader: Come, let us worship God.

People: Let us worship God together!

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All too often we fail in our efforts to live as God would have us live. We push away, turning cold shoulders to God and each other. We express anger and resentment instead of compassion and grace. We seek revenge instead of reconciliation. In these moments we ask God to forgive us and set us upon the right path...SILENT PRAYER...Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, hear and believe the Good News of the Gospel.

People: **In and through Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

"A Voice Cries Out, Prepare the Way of the Lord"
Dawn, Judy, & Nikelle

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

OLD TESTAMENT – Isaiah 40:3-11 (NRSV)

3

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

4

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

5

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

6

A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

7

The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

8

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

9

Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”

10

See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

11

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

NEW TESTAMENT – Mark 1:1-8 (NRSV)
The Proclamation of John the Baptist

1 The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;

3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

5 And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

7 He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.

8 I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

SERMON

"Born in You"

Rev. Dr. Ewen Holmes

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN OF AFFIRMATION

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"
Dawn, Judy, & Nikelle

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Love is an emotion that must be shared. When love is returned we experience belonging, happiness, joy. Jesus said we are to love our neighbor as God loves us. May these offerings demonstrate our commitment to love others as God loves us.

†DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, the love we receive from you is beyond our comprehension. Accept these gifts of love returned to you from grateful hearts. As your love has no limits, may this offering be infinite in compassionate outreach to others. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Opening Dialogue

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Sanctus

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is

the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Memorial Acclamation

Leader: ...great is the mystery of faith:

**People: Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

The Lord's Prayer

People: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, Amen.

ACTIONS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BEING SENT WITH GOD'S WORD

HYMN OF DEDICATION

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"
Dawn, Judy, & Nikelle

CHARGE

BENEDICTION

MINISTERS	All the People
TRANSITIONAL PASTOR	Rev. Dr. Ewen Holmes
PARISH ASSOCIATE	Rev. Linda Williams
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR	Nikelle Johnson
NURSERY SUPERVISOR	Elaine Edwards
CHOIR DIRECTOR	Dawn Auger
HAND BELL DIRECTOR	Peggy Hanson
ORGANIST	Wendy Tally
TREASURER	Heather Heidtman
CUSTODIAN	Harold Miller
SECRETARY	Judy Harrelson
CCLI License #2328090	

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 6, 2020

POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS: Although we will not gather for in-person worship on Christmas Eve due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we would still like to follow Westminster tradition and fill the sanctuary with poinsettias. If you would like to dedicate a poinsettia, please let the church office know at 989-686-1360. Each poinsettia is \$10.50 and includes a 6-inch pot with foil and bow. Color choices include red, pink, white, and marble. Please submit your payment of \$10.50 by Friday, December 11. **Note:** We realize some of you have paid for Easter dedication flowers, but because of the stay-at-home order in place during Easter, we were unable to order them. If you have paid for Easter flowers, your payment will go toward the poinsettia plant(s).

PER CAPITA & OFFERING ENVELOPES: If you have not paid your 2020 per capita (\$29.00), you can still get that in this month. Offering envelopes for 2021 will be available for pick-up at the church during regular office hours.

SEASONAL SUNSHINE: The Spiritual Growth committee has been working to find ways for people to feel more “present” at church, even if they are unable to be physically present here on Sundays. We are working on a project called Seasonal Sunshine. This is a craft kit that the church will deliver or mail to you. Projects will be simple yet fun to complete, and the finished project will be featured throughout the church during the Christmas/Winter season. It is an easy, enjoyable way to put your own creativity to work and showcase it at church, even if you are not in the building (and even if you you don’t see yourself as being crafty or creative)! It would be great to see everyone come together to make something beautiful for our church! Our first project is a Thumbprint Snowflake for Christmas/Winter which we want to showcase in the sanctuary during the Advent/Christmas season! This project is for people of ALL AGES! Please let Nikelle know if you would like a kit (cedirector@wpcbc.org), and we will arrange to get you one!

THE UNCLUTTERED HEART ADULT FAITH FORMATION: Join us on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. This is an Advent Bible Study using the book, *“The Uncluttered Heart”* by Beth A. Richardson. Any questions regarding the class or for Zoom information, contact Rev. Linda at 989-686-1360 or email at parishassoc@wpcbc.org.

THE WIRED WORD ADULT FAITH FORMATION: Join us on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom. Enjoy lively conversations about current news stories and the Bible passages that relate to those stories. Any questions regarding the class or for Zoom information, contact Rev. Linda at 989-686-1360 or email at parishassoc@wpcbc.org.

SPIRITUALITY OF AGING: Our Spirituality of Aging groups have begun gathering in groups of twos over the phone. We realize this is not the way we would have all hoped to have gathered this Fall, but for the ten to twelve who have signed up, it has become a way to remain connected during these coronavirus days. For these “two-by-two” conversations, we are using “*On the Brink of Everything*,” a beautiful book of reflections on what we can learn as we move closer to “the brink of everything.” This book is written by beloved and bestselling author Parker J. Palmer. It’s never too late to join in! If you have any questions or would like to learn more about our “two-by-two” discussion format, please give Rev. Linda a call.

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK: Westminster Presbyterian Church - Bay City.

This Week at Westminster

Today, Sunday, December 6, 2020

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Monday, December 7

6:00 p.m. Finance Meeting

7:00 p.m. Deacon Meeting in Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, December 8

6:30 p.m. Spiritual Growth

Wednesday, December 9

1:00 p.m. The Wired Word via Zoom

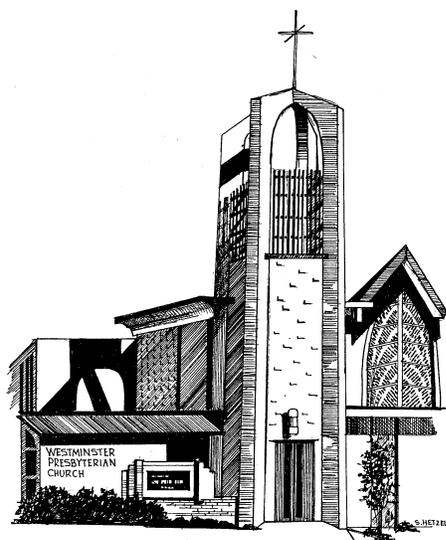
Thursday, December 10

5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran

7:00 p.m. Advent Adult Faith Formation via Zoom

Next Sunday, December 13

10:30 a.m. Worship Service



Westminster Presbyterian Church

103 E. Midland Street

Bay City, MI 48706

989-686-1360

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

lunch 12:00 -1:00 p.m.

Friday

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.